

TOTAL OF \$25,000 SUBSCRIBED UP TO NOON TODAY IN CALUMET FOR BENEFIT OF VICTIMS' FAMILIES; TRAGEDY HAS NO BEARING ON STRIKE--SEC. WILSON

Washington, Dec. 26.—Secretary of Labor Wilson today ordered John B. Dinsmore, solicitor of the department, to Calumet to render any assistance possible in settling the strike. Secretary Wilson said he thought the Christmas eve catastrophe was a matter for state investigation and not for the federal government.

In a telegram to President Moyer of the Western Federation of Miners today, Secretary Wilson said it appeared that the tragedy "was not in any way connected with the strike situation."

"I cannot conceive of such a connection existing," the message continued. "It is almost inconceivable that any one could be so inhuman as to plan such a catastrophe, but whether it was planned or was the result of malicious mischief, I hope the facts will be promptly brought to light. From my information it would appear to be purely a statutory crime, solely within the jurisdiction of the police powers of the state. I am, however, sending Solicitor Dinsmore for the purpose of rendering any assistance in clearing the situation."

The secretary expressed to Moyer his sympathy for the friends and the families of the killed.

Washington, Dec. 25.—Secretary Tamm today forwarded to President Wilson the request of President Moyer of the Western Federation of Miners for a federal investigation of the fire horror at Calumet.

NO COMMENT BY PRESIDENT

Pass Christian, Miss., Dec. 26.—President Wilson today read for the first time press reports received here regarding the recent disaster at Calumet. He offered no comment. The president had received no advice from Secretary Wilson as to the request of the Western Federation of Miners for an investigation. It is presumed here that Secretary Wilson will not consult the president until the question of federal jurisdiction in what ordinarily would be a matter for the state authorities to handle has been fully determined.

ARRESTS ARE EXPECTED.

Ten detectives and a number of special operatives of outside agencies are conducting an investigation into the cause of the disaster, which, it is asserted, may lead to arrests at any moment.

Upon advice from Special Prosecuting Attorney Nichols, who is in India, the grand jury inquiry will not be resumed until Tuesday, when he will return to the district.

Rescuers who were among the first to reach the Italian hall told stories of the conduct of men in the saloon beneath the hall. A physician, the first to respond, found nearly a dozen bodies strewn about the floor in the bar-room. Men, apparently intoxicated, hung about the bar and clamored for liquor.

And, the men yelling hysterically, while the lives of children, women and men, were being crushed out, less than twenty feet from them. None of the men made any effort to assist in the rescue. Officers arrived and prohibited the sale of liquor.

WISCONSIN EXTENDS AID.

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 26.—Governor Ferris today received the following telegram from Governor McGovern of Wisconsin:

"For the people of Wisconsin, and myself I send you and the citizens of Michigan a message of sympathy. Wisconsin stands ready to offer aid to care for the afflicted by the disaster which has spread a pall of sorrow over the holiday season."

DETROIT MAYOR TELEGRAPHS.

President Schumaker also received a telegram of sympathy and offer of help from Mayor Oscar B. Marx of Detroit. It follows:

"Detroit sympathizes keenly with the stricken families of Calumet and tenders its assistance for the relief of the afflicted. The city pledges \$1,000. Draw on me, care of Wayne

county Home Savings bank. Subscriptions received will be promptly forwarded."

MESSAGE FROM GEN. ABBEY.

The following telegram was received by President Frank H. Schumaker today from General F. L. Abbey at Kalamazoo:

"My heart is filled with sorrow for the stricken people of your city, with the grief that confronts you all. Let malice be forgotten and unite the peoples of the copper country."

MESSAGE FROM FERRIS.

Governor Ferris said as follows: "It is with profoundest sorrow that I learn of this awful disaster. Children are the most precious asset in this world."

"All Michigan will sympathize with bereaved friends and will be glad to render all assistance possible in this their hour of sorrow."

QUINCY A. SHAW'S MESSAGE.

Quincy A. Shaw, president of the Calumet & Hecla Mining Co., wired to James MacNaughton, general manager:

"I feel sure that even without this message you will do everything in the company's power, either financially or with hospital service, to give assistance to the victims and their families in this frightful accident. Will you carry my sympathy to the men and women to whom the loss is a personal one?"

Slowly the details of the dire Italian hall disaster are being brought to light, but from the mass of confusing statements of those in the building when it occurred, it is difficult to weave a coherent story. It was a panic, pure and simple. While some facts are being established which go to clear up minor details, there is as much uncertainty as ever as to the identity of the man who caused the needless fright and the exact circumstances under which the call of "fire" came.

It appears the Christmas entertainment which was attended by from 600 to 700 was nearing a completion. The program, which was brief and included songs and recitations, had been concluded and the ladies in direct charge of the gathering were in the act of distributing candy and other good things incident to such an occasion. After the children passed along one side of the hall to the platform, and received their gifts, they continued to the doorway and down the stairs into the street. It is estimated from 100 to 200 had already passed out of the building before the panic began. So far the stories seem to coincide.

Just how the alarm of "fire," so frightful in its results, was first given, has not been definitely cleared up. Those in the building who escaped differ, some asserting the cry was first heard from the doorway and others insisting they are certain it came from a man inside the hall, who had been present during the entertainment. Descriptions of this man seem to tally a little better today than on Christmas eve, however. It seems to be established he had no beard, but a mustache, and was rather a large man. It is asserted by some that the man spoke in two tongues, but there is a possibility in the excitement the cry was taken up by others almost instantly. The assertion is also made that the cry was heard from the platform.

HOW CRUSH STARTED.

Those on the scene assert that from fifty to a hundred of those in the building, probably those closest to the door, escaped down the stairway to safety directly before the death crush began. The fact there were no bodies in the vestibule between the main doorway and the foot of the stairway, seems to indicate someone stumbled close to the bottom of the stairs. In turn others must have stumbled over the first and before anyone could regain their feet, the tide of excited, straggling, panic-stricken humanity plunged headlong into the mass. The excitement grew more intense and

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT CALUMET MASS MEETING

"On the day, which throughout all Christendom is set aside as a day of rejoicing over the birth of the Savior, Calumet, stricken to the heart by an almost unbelievable catastrophe, stands mourning by the side of its dead."

"All bitterness and ill-feeling that has existed in this community during the past months is wiped away by one great, common affliction. Today the people of Calumet can only see their neighbors, their brothers, their sisters, and their little children staggering under an almost unbearable burden of distress and grief."

"It is not for us today to try to ascertain the cause, nor to speculate as to how it might have been prevented. With feeble mortal minds we grope about in vain, we try to penetrate the veil which hides the logic and the reason for the acts of God, and from the hearts of our people the cry goes out today, Why must this overwhelming blow at this time strike a community and a people who have already suffered so much? And there is no answer. We can only bow our heads and know that somewhere, sometime and in His own good way, He Himself will give the answer."

"And so today we have gathered here to devise some means of alleviating the suffering of our people. With the kindest feeling for those who offer it, we ask no outside help. These are our own people and this is our sacred privilege to care for our dead and to comfort the living."

"Therefore, in order that the purpose of the meeting may be carried out in an orderly way and that the heartfelt sympathy of not only this community but of the entire state and nation may be conveyed to each one of the afflicted, it is

"Resolved, That the chairman of this meeting and the presidents of Red Jacket and Laurium appoint a committee of twelve as a relief committee;

"That such committee meet at once and choose a chairman, a secretary and treasurer;

"That such committee be instructed to take charge of the work of receiving contributions and extending to the sufferers all comfort and assistance in their hour of distress;

"That such committee may at any time call for all such assistance as it may need in its work and

"That by this meeting, representing the people of Calumet, such committee be bidden Godspeed on its errand of mercy."

those closest to the death trap ahead attempted to hold back the others. With the weight and force of the crush behind them, they were helpless, and were swept on, crowding even more densely the solid mass of boys and girls and men and women ahead of them, until the stairway was filled half way to the top.

Added to the terror stricken cries of those in the building, the moans of the dying and the sounds of the struggle within the building were the cries of those outside, who had lingered to wait for others. This led to the alarm of fire. It was incorrectly stated Christmas eve the fire alarm contributed to the confusion. The reverse was the case, for the alarm did not come until the panic was at its height and but for the timely action, more lives would have been added to the awful toll.

While the willing hands of some of the frenzied turned to the frightful task of extricating the living and the dead from this stairway, others stood before those who would have rushed on to the same fate and fought them back.

The survivors tell a story of one man who stood before the crowd almost at

All offers of the Citizens' Alliance to render aid have been rejected.

Heads of families explained to members of the committee that they feared to accept any aid because of the statements by officers of the federation, who have told them they will supply all assistance necessary.

Two ladies, members of a relief committee, were ejected from the home of a striker.

Cases of poverty—families in absolute need of aid—were found to be numerous.

The relief fund of citizens, amounting to upwards of \$25,000 is at their disposal.

Every merchant of the community is authorized to fill any order for provisions or clothing when presented on proper authority.

The committee is in possession of ample funds for every emergency.

As a material expression of the sympathy of the community at large for the bereaved families of the victims lost in the Italian hall disaster Christmas eve, there was raised up to noon today over \$25,000 to be used for relief purposes and to assist in defraying the expenses of burying the dead. This includes the fund of \$1,500 raised at a mass meeting of Houghton citizens on the night of the disaster, provides an enormous sum available for immediate use. More money will be forthcoming immediately.

No assistance from outside sources will be necessary. The willingness of the citizens of this community and the copper country generally to meet the emergency, whatever it may require, was aptly expressed in resolutions, passed yesterday afternoon at a mass meeting of the citizens of Red Jacket, Calumet, Laurium and vicinity in the Calumet theater, with this simple statement:

"With the kindest feeling for those who offer it, we ask no outside help. These are our people and this is our sacred privilege, to care for our dead and to comfort the living."

The mass meeting was called jointly by Mayor F. H. Schumaker of Red Jacket and Mayor Joseph Wills of Laurium. Citizens of all walks of life, bowed by the sorrow which has befallen the community, responded to the call of duty and sympathy and gave expression to their desire to help. A relief committee of twelve members was chosen to do everything possible to ameliorate the suffering of the bereaved. This committee is composed of Mayor F. H. Schumaker of Red Jacket, Mayor Joseph Wills of Laurium, Capt. Thomas Hoatson, Johnson Vivian, Dr. M. A. Thometz, F. J. Kohlhaas, Dr. D. K. McQueen, Oscar Keckonen, John Knox, Jr., Peter McClelland, O. F. Bailey and Thomas Saddy.

COMMITTEE IN SESSION.

It has been decided that this committee will be in continuous session in the Red Jacket council chambers for the next two days to furnish information to the public, and to make it the headquarters for all relief work. The instant applications are received for assistance, it is planned to have men in waiting to expedite the service as much as possible.

The members of this committee will likewise receive contributions from citizens of Calumet who desire to assist in the relief work. It is expected hundreds of such contributions will be received.

In addition to directing this work, the members of the committee will also visit each of the homes in sadness, offer their sympathy as well as the sympathy of the community at large, and ascertain whether anything can be done to ameliorate the suffering and lighten the burden of sorrow.

The committee was authorized by the mass meeting to call on the citizens of this community for any assistance needed and assurance was given that the call will meet with an instantaneous response. The members of the committee are prepared to lay aside their personal

business, to devote their entire time to discharging the mission to which they have been called.

COMMITTEE IS ORGANIZED.

Almost immediately after the adjournment of the mass meeting, the committee began its work. Every member was present at a meeting held in the Red Jacket council chamber, where an organization was perfected and provision was made for continuous sessions and instantaneous action in cases called to the attention of the committee or located in personal investigations.

The committee's officers are as follows:

Chairman—Mayor F. H. Schumaker. Secretary and treasurer—Frank H. Kohlhaas.

Assistant secretary and treasurer—Dr. M. A. Thometz.

There was named at the gathering last evening a committee of women to engage and assist in relief work. This committee is composed of Mrs. Herman Guck, Mrs. Charles J. Wickstrom, Mrs. Joseph Verlin, Mrs. F. H. Schumaker and Mrs. Suina. This committee was authorized to give any assistance found necessary and to name such sub-committees as are deemed necessary.

The members of these sub-committees and of the general committee of women, will do their utmost to console those in each home which is stricken by death.

IMPRESSIVE ADDRESSES.

In the brief space of time occupied by the meeting, the tender feeling of the community towards the families whose loved ones have thus been taken away, were expressed very beautifully by Rev. Fr. Basil, pastor of the Sacred Heart church, Rev. Daniel D. Stalker, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church; Judge of Probate Bentley of Hancock, Chairman James T. Fisher of Laurium and others. The resolutions were read by Attorney Albert E. Petermann, called for the C. & H. Mining company and met with unanimous approval.

James T. Fisher, chairman, addressed the meeting as follows:

"Citizens, we have assembled here today for the purpose of devising ways and means to ameliorate the sufferings of those on whom the hand of death has fallen so heavily, and I would ask Rev. Father Basil to open the meeting with a prayer."

TALK BY FATHER BASIL.

"Fellow Citizens: I was called upon today to say a few words here this afternoon, and I assure you it will be only a few words. I am standing before you not as a lecturer but as a preacher of the Gospel, and in this strain I will speak to you. It is sad for us to be here instead of being home in our family circle, but God today has designed for us a higher motive for Christmas, and I must say we cannot celebrate this day in a more becoming manner than by lending our interest, and such is our aim at this meeting."

"God has called from our community little innocents, and I do hope that they will ask God to bless our community, for it is sadly in need of it. All those little darlings today are in heaven, and none of them would return if asked; they would say their Christmas is nicer than they expected, but we have the parents of these children here with us and we must assist them and help them, for Christ says that whatever we do to one of His children He will consider done to Himself. If you are a Christian then show your Christianity by helping this community."

"Christ will reward us for attending to our works of mercy, and if you wish to be shown a kind judgment, show your mercy. God then will be kind and merciful to you. We must ask why this occurred. We can never criticize His designs, but what God does is well done, and some day we hope we will see that even this was an act of love on the part of God."

"Here we stand weak and humble, weak when God's powerful hand is laid upon us. We cannot stop it, but we can now relieve the suffering somewhat. So let us do it as God desires."